St. John's Episcopal Parish:

Church To Observe 100th Year Since Consecration

St. John's Episcopal Church, Bellefonte, will commemorate the 100th onniversary of its consecration tomorrow with the celebration of the Eucharist at 5:15 p.m., followed by a reception and dinner.

The church, located at the corner of N. Allegheny and W. Lamb Sts., was consecrated by Bishop Howe June 7, 1872.

At tomorrow's commemoration, the service speaker will be Rev. Stuart F. Gast, who served as the church's pastor from June, 1928 to August, 1934.

Rev. Harold A. Emery Jr. is the present pastor of St. John's.

Following the Eucharist, which is open to the entire community, a church reception will be held at the parish house at 6:15 p.m., followed by a dinner at the Bellefonte Elementary School at 7:15 p.m.

This history of the church dates back to Aug. 11, 1837, when Rev. George Washington Natt, a deacon, came to Bellefonte to become the first rector of the parish.

Earlier attempts at organizing the parish had proved unsuccessful, although various missionaries from the Society for The Advancement of Christianity in the State of Pennsylvania has conducted regular services in Bellefonte.

Within a year after Dr. Natt's arrival, a church was built on High St., called "Jail Hill" in those days. Within two years, the parish was admitted into union with the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

After extensive travels throughout central Pennsylvania had sapped his health, Dr. Natt resigned with 13 years of service. In Harrisburg, alone, he had held services in eight chsrches.

The next noteworthy rector was "that genial Irishman," Rev James C. Laverty, who came to Bellefonte in 1863. Because of his close ties with the University, the then Agricultural College, other rectors were encouraged to hold services regularly in State College.

Shortly before his plans for a new church could be carried out, ill health forced him to resign. The cornerstone of the new church was laid by Bishop Stevens on April 22, 1869, during the rectorship of Rev. Byron McGann.

Consecrated 100 years ago last June, the new church opened Easter Day, 1871, and cost $20,000. Speaking at the consecration was Rev. Laverty.

In 1877, the present rectory was built at the expense of Maj. W. F. Reynolds. Electric lights were installed in the church in 1884.

The years 1898 to 1906 saw a continued growth of the parish and expansion of the work in State College, under Rev. George Israel Browne. When Rev. Browne resigned, a petition, signed by the majority of the members, called for the recalling of former minister, Rev. John Hewitt, who again assumed the rectorship in 1908.

The first year of his rectorship was marked by extensive repairs and improvements. Rev. Hewitt also succeeded in making the work at State College a statewide, instead of a diocesan, mission.

During its first 100 years, St. John's church had 19 rectors. Rev. Gast, who will speak tomorrow, wrote a detailed history of the church in 1934. Since that history was written, the church has had 11 rectors.

More recent changes in the church include a complete refurbishing and redecorating of the parish house during the mid-1940s, the installation of electric carillons in the church steeple in the early 1960s and complete remodeling of the chapel in the basement two years ago.

This past summer, a steeplejack was hired to repair and renew the church's steeple.

One Hundredth Anniversary

St. John's Episcopal Church
Bellefonte Pa.

1872 - 1972

In Commemoration of

One Hundredth Anniversary

of the

Consecration on June 7, 1872

by

Bishop Howe

of

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Allegheny and Lamb Streets

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

on

November 16, 1972

PROGRAM

5:15 p.m. Eucharist - Celebrant Sermon
The Rev. Stuart F. Gast

6:15 p.m. Reception - Parish House

7:00 p.m. Dinner - Elementary School
Cafeteria

Display of Memorabilia in Parish House

DINNER PROGRAM

TOASTMASTER -
The Honorable Roy Wilkinson, Jr.
Commonwealth Court Judge of Penna.

GRACE

Introduction of Former Rectors

Blessing

PARISH DIRECTORY - 1972

Bishop - The Rt. Rev. Dean T. Stevenson

Rector - The Rev. Harold A. Emery, Jr.

WARDENS

Mr. Jack Lucas

Mr. George Boughter

VESTRY

Mrs. Randolph B. Baker
Mr. Lee Davies
Mr. George I. Purnell, Jr.
Mr. George Shugert
Mrs. Joyce Willar
Mrs. Samuel R. Waite

William Garman, Treasurer Mrs. O. E. Kline, Rec. Treas.
Patricia Rowe, Sec'y.

St. John's Episcopal Churchwomen (1882-1972)

Miss Jean McGarvey - President
Mrs. John B. Miller - Vice-President
Mrs. Samuel R. Waite - Secretary
Mrs. W. Ralph Gray - Treasurer
Mrs. O. E. Kline - United Thank Offering Custodian

THE ALTAR GUILD

Mrs. Robert Greene - Directress

CHURCH SCHOOL

Mrs. Robert Greene

Mrs. Harold A. Emery
Mrs. John S. Smith

THE CHOIR

Organist and Director

Mrs. Zollene Reissner

RECTORS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The Reverend George Washington Natt	1837 - 1850
The Reverend George H. Walsh	1851 - 1853
The Reverend James L. Hildebrand	1854 - 1857
The Reverend George G. Field	1857 - 1862
The Reverend James C. Laverty	1863 - 1868
The Reverend Byron McGann	1868 - 1870
The Reverend Henry J. W. Allen	1870 - 1877
The Reverend John Hewitt	1877 - 1885
The Reverend John R. R. Robinson	1885 - 1886
The Reverend James Oswald Davis	1886 - 1891
The Reverend Wm. DeLancey Benton	1891 - 1893
The Reverend Robert Erskine Wright	1893 - 1898
The Reverend George Israel Browne	1898 - 1906
The Reverend Edwin G. Richardson	1906 - 1907
The Reverend John Hewitt	1908 - 1914
The Reverend William C. Charlton	1914 - 1916
The Reverend Malcolm DePui Maynard	1916 - 1925
The Reverend Alex J. Kilpatrick	1926 - 1927
The Reverend Stuart F. Gase	1928 - 1934
The Reverend Robert James Sudlow	1934 - 1937
The Reverend Samuel H. Sayre	1937 - 1938
The Reverend Warren Newman (deceased)	1938 - 1939
The Reverend Herbert Koepp-Baker	1939 - 1940
The Reverend Robert Thomas (deceased)	1941 - 1942
The Reverend Francis P. Davis	1942 - 1944
The Reverend Vernon Weaver	1944 - 1945
The Reverend A. Whitney Church	1945 - 1949
The Reverend Clarence C. Reimer (deceased)	1949 - 1962
The Reverend Harold H. Hayes, ARCHDEACON	1963 - 1968
The Reverend Harold A. Emery, Jr.	1968